

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. There used to be the principle of fairness in media, but that seems to have been reversed by and for corporate interests.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. I am tired of news that happens far away taking precedence over what is happening close to me. Media giants do not serve the local public interest.

Sinclair should not be allowed to force stations to air partisan material as news or entertainment. They are welcome to take political ads, and air them as such. Their licenses should be revoked.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.